

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) An emergency roof detachment device for a vehicle comprising, in combination:

a vehicle having a fixed top portion, said fixed top portion defining an opening;

a crossbar having a first end and a second end, said first end of said crossbar being coupled to a passenger side of said fixed top portion of said vehicle, said second end of said crossbar being coupled to a driver side of said fixed top portion of said vehicle so that said crossbar reinforces said fixed top portion of said vehicle, said crossbar being dimensioned to bisect said opening into a front opening proximate a front windshield of said vehicle and a rear opening proximate a rear windshield of said vehicle, each said front opening and said rear opening being dimensioned to permit a person to pass therethrough;

a detachable roof portion having a front end and a back end and dimensioned to be detachably coupled to said fixed top portion of said vehicle, said front end of said detachable roof portion being detachably coupled to said fixed top portion of said vehicle proximate a top portion of a front windshield and said back end of said detachable roof portion being detachably coupled to said fixed top

portion of said vehicle proximate a top portion of a rear windshield; ~~and~~

a plurality of prong members coupled to a back end of said detachable roof portion and dimensioned to mate with corresponding recessed portions defined by said fixed top portion of said vehicle proximate said rear windshield when said detachable roof portion covering said opening; and

a handle having a quick-release mechanism and coupled to an interior portion of said vehicle proximate a front end of said detachable roof portion and dimensioned to initiate detachment of said detachable roof portion from said fixed top portion of said vehicle, wherein said handle comprising:

a gripping arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said gripping arm dimensioned to be gripped by a person, said second end of said gripping arm being pivotally coupled to said detachable roof portion; and

a locking arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said locking arm being pivotally coupled to both said second end of said gripping arm and said detachable roof portion, said second end of said locking arm dimensioned to couple

said locking arm to said fixed roof portion when said
locking arm being in a locked position.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The emergency roof detachment device of Claim 1 wherein said detachable roof portion being substantially rectangular-shaped.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The emergency roof detachment device of Claim ~~4~~1 further comprising a pad coupled proximate said second end of said locking arm and dimensioned to cushion said locking arm from said fixed roof portion when said locking arm being in a locked position.

6. (canceled)

7. (original) The emergency roof detachment device of Claim 1 further comprising a reinforcing frame coupled about said fixed roof portion proximate said opening and dimensioned to reinforce said fixed roof portion.

8. (currently amended) A method for exiting a vehicle comprising, in combination, the steps of:

providing a vehicle having a fixed top portion, said fixed top portion defining an opening;

providing a crossbar having a first end and a second end, said first end of said crossbar being coupled to a passenger side of said fixed top portion of said vehicle, said second end of said crossbar being coupled to a driver side of said fixed top portion of said vehicle so that said crossbar reinforces said fixed top portion of said vehicle, said crossbar being dimensioned to bisect said opening into a front opening proximate a front windshield of said vehicle and a rear opening proximate a rear windshield of said vehicle, each said front opening and said rear opening being dimensioned to permit a person to pass therethrough; providing a detachable roof portion having a front end and a back end and dimensioned to be detachably coupled to said fixed top portion of said vehicle, said front end of said detachable roof portion being detachably coupled to said fixed top portion of said vehicle proximate a top portion of a front windshield and said back end of said detachable roof portion being detachably coupled to said fixed top portion of said vehicle proximate a top portion of a rear windshield;

providing a plurality of prong members coupled to a back end of said detachable roof portion and dimensioned to mate with corresponding recessed portions defined by said fixed top portion of said vehicle proximate said rear windshield when said detachable roof portion covering said opening;

providing a handle having a quick-release mechanism and coupled to an interior portion of said vehicle proximate a front end of said detachable roof portion and dimensioned to initiate detachment of said detachable roof portion from said fixed top portion of said vehicle,
wherein said handle comprising:~~;~~ and

a gripping arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said gripping arm dimensioned to be gripped by a person, said second end of said gripping arm being pivotally coupled to said detachable roof portion; and

a locking arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said locking arm being pivotally coupled to both said second end of said gripping arm and said detachable roof portion, said second end of said locking arm dimensioned to couple said locking arm to said fixed roof portion when said locking arm being in a locked position;

pulling said gripping arm in a downward direction to
~~initiating detachment of uncouple~~ said detachable roof
portion from said fixed top portion;

pushing said detachable roof portion away from said
fixed top portion of said vehicle to uncover said opening;
and

exiting said interior portion of said vehicle through
said opening defined by said fixed top portion of said
vehicle.

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~9~~8 further comprising the steps of:

covering said opening with said detachable roof portion; and

pushing said gripping arm parallel to said detachable roof portion to bring said locking arm into contact with said fixed roof portion in order to lock said detachable roof portion to said fixed roof portion.

12. (original) The method of Claim 11 further comprising the step of providing a pad coupled proximate said second end of said locking arm and dimensioned to cushion said locking arm from said fixed roof portion when said locking arm being in a locked position.

13. (original) The method of Claim 8 further comprising, in combination, the steps of:

providing a plurality of prong members coupled to a back end of said detachable roof portion; and

engaging said plurality of prong members with corresponding recessed portions defined by said fixed top portion of said vehicle proximate said rear windshield when said detachable roof portion covering said opening.

14. (original) The method of Claim 8 further comprising the step of providing a reinforcing frame coupled about said fixed roof portion proximate said opening and dimensioned to reinforce said fixed roof portion.